

ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My brethren and sisters, I am sure that you appreciate my position here this morning. I have been impressed as you have with the spirit of this Conference thus far, particularly to have our leader talk to us as he has. We do believe that which we have heard.

FOLLOWING GOOD ADVICE BRINGS SECURITY

If we could carry to our homes the counsel that President Clark has given, and if we could carry out this advice in our administrative work in the Ward and the Stakes, I am sure we would find a reawakening.

On one occasion the Lord said to His disciples:

My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

This has a far-sweeping significance. In the last five years, perhaps six, we have been advised of steps we should take to make ourselves economically secure. We have passed through one economic tragedy we were not prepared to meet, for we had been laboring in some degree of lethargy; so I repeat that we were not prepared to take care of the economic needs of our people. The result was that we became more or less confused in our thinking and lost sight of some of the old standards that had been set up in the Church.

PRESIDENT YOUNG'S EPISTLE TO SAMUEL BRANNAN

I am reminded now of an epistle that President Young sent to the Saints in California by Samuel Brannan. Brother Brannan intercepted the Mormon people on their way westward out on Green River. You remember he had instructions to take a group of Saints then residing in the eastern part of the United States around Cape Horn and up to San Francisco, and it was originally intended that they should later join the Saints in the Rocky Mountains. They settled in 1846 around San Francisco Bay, and in 1847, when Samuel Brannan learned of the coming of the pioneers under the leadership of Brigham Young, he, with two others set out across the mountains and over the Oregon Trail, and about the last of June, 1847, met the Mormon leader on Green River. He remained with the pioneers and came into the Valley with them, and as he was about to leave, President Young gave some very definite instructions in an epistle which Brother Brannan was to take back to the Saints.

Among other things, the President wrote this:

We feel to say to those who are unitedly engaged with Brother Brannan in laboring for the good of the whole, that the poor, the widow, and fatherless may not want, that you will be blessed if you keep your contracts to the end of the two years, and labor diligently in your several occupations; and when that time shall expire, we hope you will be able to cancel all your obligations and have enough to give

each family an inheritance or stewardship, that he may commence, as it were, anew in the world, just as we are commencing here at this place (Salt Lake City). We do not believe in having all things in common and on general principles, as some have taught, both in the Church and out, but we believe that it is right for every man to have his stewardship, according to the ability that God has given him.

Now the reason he said that at that time was that he wanted the Saints to understand that they should be individualistic, should stand on their own foundation, and that they should work for what they got, giving full value, maintaining an integrity consistent with their standing as members of the Church.

The epistle is an interesting one and all of it is worth our reading, but the point I wish to emphasize is the point that President Young made with Samuel Brannan, that the Saints must be consistent, must be loyal to their trust, but must stand independently and aloof except for the help that they themselves might contribute to a common cause.

SUCCESS OF THE WELFARE PLAN DEPENDS UPON LOYALTY

The President pointed out that it was the duty of the leading brethren to look after those who were unfortunate, and who could not make their contribution because of illness or physical defect or otherwise, that all the membership of the Church should contribute their part and do their part. In this instruction, as I see it, is the very essence of the success of our Welfare Program. Not in what we receive, but in what we do, in what we contribute in our own Wards and Stakes. We have not been so successful in the production of commodities, not so successful as we would like to be, and yet we feel there has been attained a degree of success because of the loyalty of the men and women who have sought to do their part. When men and women will go down on projects and work in the mornings and the evenings; will assemble at our storehouses, women who are busy in their homes, yet are willing to assemble in the storehouses and do their part in furthering this great program—I say when men and women will do that we need not fear the outcome, although the material things may not be so plentiful as we would like. It is in the spirit of the thing that we feel the power and the strength of this effort.

So my brethren and sisters—my time is limited—if I may just say this: if we will DO, we will know of the doctrines. If we will contribute of our energies, and our efforts, we can accomplish much. Brother Clark has pointed out what may be accomplished in the Fast if we do our part, and then concentrate, centralize that in the great divisions of the Stakes and the Regions, and finally the central storehouse. What may we not be able to do to help meet that which confronts the Latter-Day Saints, and may confront them when the time of need comes!

So I repeat the words of the Savior; "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." The doctrine He was teaching was not His, but belonged to God, as every bit of energy and effort that is put forth under the Welfare Plan for the

benefit and blessing of the people is in harmony with the will and purposes of God. If we do His will, we will know of its effectiveness and of its blessings. And may God help us to do this, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I am sure, brethren and sisters, we were all pleased to hear the President of the Church, and to know that he was able to stand before us and address us in the opening of this Conference. If I were to undertake to comment on his remarks I would say that the principles that he laid down when he became the President of the Church have actuated his life in the years that have succeeded. He has been an example unto the members of the Church. He has been full of persuasion, and has taught us well as a people. I believe we are so well taught that if we should do as well as we know, and leave undone the things we know we ought not to do, we would be in the way of salvation. We have need therefore of being impressed with the necessity of doing things we know we ought to do.

A WAR FOUGHT FOR A PRINCIPLE

Our Savior has been an example to us in all things. I call attention to the war that took place in heaven of which we read in the *Bible*, the 12th chapter of Revelation, and the *Pearl of Great Price*, where one of our Father's sons who was regarded as a noble and great one, presented a plan for our salvation that would oblige us to comply with the law without the exercise of our agency, and he would take away from our Father in heaven His honor and His glory. In that council in heaven the Firstborn of the Father in the spirit came forward with a simple but forceful declaration: "Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever."

The battle was fought, whatever its nature, upon this platform of principles, and we have reason to believe that we were among those who stood with the Savior, our Elder Brother, true and faithful, and those who rebelled were cast out and down, and God's purposes and His will are made to obtain in the plan of man's salvation. The Savior is our great exemplar and we are instructed by Scripture that we should walk in the light as He is in the light, with the promise that we will have fellowship one with another, and His blood will cleanse us from all sin. We have good reason to believe that the principle which the Savior presented in the council of heaven, pertained not to the spirit life alone, but to our existence here on the earth.

Of course the earth was not framed at that time, but the end is known unto God even from the beginning. Provision was made even at that time for redeeming mankind from a fall that had not yet taken place, through the atonement of Christ, and that was one of the purposes of His being chosen, and that we might all have forgiveness of sin through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. The Father gave